(c) whether forest villages have been declared after considering the proposals received from State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) As reported by the State Government of Uttaranchal, there are no notified forest villages in the State, though, there are certain habitations located on forest lands, which are locally known as Khattas/Goths/Taungiya villages. The State Government has been planning to convert these habitations into revenue villages. The Ministry has not received any proposal for declaring more villages as forest villages and no such provision exists. The State Government has submitted a proposal seeking fund for development of 41 tribal dominated villages located in the vicinities of forest areas. As there are no forest villages in Uttaranchal, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not released funds to the State Government under the programme for development of forest villages.

Consideration of the ST (Reorganization of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005

67. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scheduled Tribes (Reorganization of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 is likely to be considered by Parliament in the ensuing session; and

(b) the details of essential features of the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005, introduced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in Lok Sabha on 13th December, 2005, seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded, to ensure (a) tenurial security, providing them relief against the physical and psychological alienation from land belonging to them; (b) livelihood, in terms of agriculture and ownership of minor forest produce, including rights to collect and trade the same; and (c) traditional and customary rights.

The Bill was referred to a joint Committee of the Parliament for examination. The Joint Committee of Parliament has since presented its Report to Lok Sabha on 23.05.2006, which was also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same day. No precise time frame can be indicated at this stage regarding its consideration in the Parliament.

Cash incentives for girl child

68. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether to counter the growing menace of female foeticide and discrimination against women, Government plan to start a scheme by which parents will be given cash incentives for taking care of their girl child;

(b) if so, whether her Ministry is considering a proposal under which poor families will be given money for certain milestones in their daughters lives including sending her to school, regular check up and ensuring that she passes school exams;

(c) if so, by what time the scheme is likely to be implemented: and

(d) to what extent it has achieved its desired results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Working Group on "Development of Children" for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) has been constituted by the Planning Commission in April 2006. This Working Group under the chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development and other experts will review the existing approach and programmes for children and suggest suitable initiatives and programmes for the survival, protection, welfare and development of children including the girl child. The deliberations of these Working Groups will serve as an input into the Steering Committee Report of the Planning Commission. The recommendations of the Steering Committee would form the basis for the programmes and schemes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in Eleventh Plan.